

network, and the protection signals are fed into the respective other terminating network element of the first and second parts of the ring network and are forwarded counter to a transmission direction of the working signals to the central network element.

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8. A ring network as claimed in claim 7, wherein the network elements terminating the first and second parts of the ring network are designed such that the protection signals previously forward at the further network elements are selected and fed into the respective other terminating network element of the first and 10 second parts of the ring network.

9. A ring network as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:
optical splitters for splitting the working signals.

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10. A ring network as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:
one of optical filters and multiplexers for joining together different optical signals.

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11. A method for distributing data within a ring network for feeding in data and for distributing both working signals and protection signals on different transmission paths and in oppositely directed transmission directions and for forwarding data from subscribers and for distributing the working signals to the subscribers connected to network elements, the method comprising the steps of:

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subdividing the ring network into a first part and a second part;
feeding the working signals into both the first and second parts of the ring network;
feeding the working signals as protection signals into a respective other part of the ring network;